UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.: GENERAL

E/ECA/CM.15/24
25 March 1989

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Tenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
27 March - 3 April 1989

Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-fourth session of the Commission/ fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
5-10 April 1989

Item 5 of the provisional agenda**

TENTH MEETING OF THE AFRICA REGIONAL
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 23-25 MARCH 1989

Recommendation

---

* E/ECA/TPCW.10/1.

** E/ECA/CM.15/1.

INTRODUCTION

The Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee (ARCC) for the Integration of Women in Development held its Tenth meeting at the ECA Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 23-25 March 1989. Seven out of 15 member countries attended and six other member countries attended as observers. Several UN agencies, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations participated as observers.

The meeting coincided with the Tenth Anniversary of its establishment by your August body in 1979 in Morocco by resolution 365. In its 10 years of life the Committee had its ups and down but has managed to survive to celebrate its 10 years. It is our hope that an appropriate programme of celebration will be organized during the Fourth Regional Conference on the integration of women in development on the implementation of the Arusha Strategies for the Advancement of Women in Africa to be held in Abuja, Nigeria 18-22 September 1989.

At its Tenth meeting last week ARCC discussed several matters including:

(a) the need to strengthen ARCC and our structures at subregional levels;

(b) the report of the Expert Group meeting on guidelines for the incorporation of women's concern in national development;

(c) the ECA report on changing socio-economic conditions of women in Africa in the context of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the advancement of Women; and

(d) the agenda of the Fourth Regional Conference to be held in Abuja, Nigeria.

We have submitted recommendations and the draft resolution that we adopted at our meeting for your consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A. At the national level

1. Women's visibility in national development plans should be a priority. National development strategies should therefore be developed taking into consideration allocation of resources to basic production sectors. Policy of action aimed at involving women in national planning exercises should be formulated.

2. Appropriate structural arrangements be institutionalized through which women's programmes can be integrated into national development.

3. In relation to structural adjustment programmes:

   (i) Measures to reduce the negative effects of adjustment on women, and policies which can compensate its adverse impact are needed. For instance, in employment, jobs (e.g. in the services) where women predominate should be protected and maintained;

   (ii) considering that there are very few women at the decision and policy-making level, governments should make every effort to ensure the participation of national machineries in the early stages of policy formulation and implementation of projects.

4. Employment in the informal sector continues to play a key role and a hope for survival for a greater majority of women. In view of this, working environment and conditions for women in the informal sector should be improved with attention given to reconstruction of physical facilities (e.g. shelter, water, sanitation etc.), access to productive facilities such as credit, marketing and training.

5. Regarding data/information on women in development, national central statistical offices with the assistance of national machineries and other organizations involved in women and development should compile, process and analyse data so as to assess women's role and contribution to national development.

6. In the area of education and training:

   (i) access to science and technology-based training programmes should be provided to girls/women in order to enhance their masterly of scientific and technological knowledge and skills necessary of participation in various sectors of development;

   (ii) national training institutions should develop strategies/mechanisms which would encourage more girls/women to enter into scientific and technological fields.

B. At the subregional/regional levels

8. The subregional women's structures are vital focal points for co-ordinating, monitoring and implementation of subregional programmes for women. In order to ensure continuity of the subregional and regional structures, member States should explore ways and means of funding women's co-ordinators as well as resources for carrying out women's programmes in the respective MULPOCs.

9. International and inter-governmental organizations should give support to women's programmes and projects that are initiated and part of the MULPOCs overall programmes.

10. Subregional institutions and or structures such as the Preferential Trade Areas (PTA), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference (SADEC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of the Great Lakes and others should incorporate in their programmes and or give attention to issues which would benefit women in particular.

C. At the international level

11. International organizations are called upon to:

(i) provide financial support for the establishment of a data bank for women in development in Africa;

(ii) provide financial support for women's programmes in the subregions;

(iii) provide both financial and technical support for women's participation in and production of materials for the Regional Conference.

RESOLUTION

STRENGTHENING THE CAPABILITIES OF SUB-REGIONAL AND REGIONAL STRUCTURES FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling Conference of Ministers resolution 626 (XXIII) of 15 April 1988 which urged countries to meet their budgetary contributions to international institutions responsible for financing programmes for the integration of women in development in the MULPOCs,

Recalling further the UNDP/ECA/ARCC evaluation mission of August 1987 related to the programme of integration of women in the development process in the African countries,

Having considered the current situation of the women's programme at the MULPOC level and the difficulties encountered by the existing sub-regional committees on the integration of women in development in carrying out their functions as assigned to them,

Desirous of strengthening these existing subregional and regional structures in order to ensure their viability and continued efforts to co-ordinate and implement activities for the advancement of women and to accelerate their integration in development,

Taking account of the considerable importance of the Fourth Regional Conference to be held in Abuja in September 1989,

Noting with satisfaction the collaboration between the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Secretary General of OAU in the organisation of the Fourth Regional Conference.

..../2

1. Requests member States to take necessary steps to the extension of the mandates of the Bureaus of the sub-regional committees and of the Bureau of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the integration of women in development by maintaining them for another two years.

2. Requests further the Executive Secretary of ECA to make every effort in order to find necessary resources and to undertake contacts with international organizations interested in financing women's programme of the MULPOCs.

3. Requests member States to provide voluntary contributions to the women's programme at the MULPOCs to enable the achievement of objectives set for integration of women in development.

4. Thanks the Egyptian Government for taking a lead in support of the women's programme by providing a co-ordinator to the North Africa MULPOC.

5 Kindly requests member States to ensure the participation of high level delegations to the Fourth Regional Conference on the integration of Women in Development to be held in September 1989 in order to ensure effective participation of women in the region.

6. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA in collaboration with the Secretary-General of OAU to take necessary steps to mobilize adequate resources for the success of the Fourth Regional Conference.

7. Requests the Secretariat of the ECA to make necessary arrangements for the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee (ARCC) during the 4th Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development and to sensitize all member countries to give publicity to the event through mass media.